

tomizable presentation environment of a service broker system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an interactive presentation having a plurality of object placeholders, each for holding a presentable object or a presentable reference to an object, each placeholder having a resource for selecting the presentable object or reference held therein and a resource for selecting the placeholder;

providing a data store for storing the presentable objects; and

linking the presentable objects to indicate the relationship between the objects, wherein the arrangement of the presentable objects, references, or both within the placeholders corresponds at least in part to the manner in which the presented objects and references are linked.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Independent claims 1, 38, 39 and 40 and independent claims 16 and 25 are amended. Claims 1-40 are in this case.

Preliminarily, Applicants respectfully note that an Interview conducted with Examiners Ke and Kincaid on November 5, 2003 is not acknowledged in the Office Action dated April 9, 2004. Applicants respectfully state that the Amendment filed on December 30, 2003 was consistent with arguments made and amendments proposed during the Interview. As it is not clear to Applicants whether such was considered by the Examiner's pursuant to issuance of the Office Action, reconsideration of this Application, in light of the Interview, is respectfully requested.

Turning now to the Office Action dated April 9, 2004, the Examiner initially rejected claims 1-7, 10-13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 30, 31, 34-37, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,603,488. According to the Examiner, and with reference to Applicants' claim 1, Humpleman et al. teach a customizable presentation environment of a service broker system for interactive monitoring and control of data from a client/server safety system over a global computer network. More specifically, the Examiner takes the position that the environment (in FIG. 5A, item 402) comprises an interactive presentation of data from a client-side of the system having a plurality of object placeholders, each for holding a presentable object or presentable reference to an object (citing FIG. 6, items 506, 504 and column 14, lines 11-20); each placeholder having a resource for selecting the presentable object or reference held therein and a resource for selecting the placeholder (at column 11, lines 1-21); and a data store on the server-side of the system for storing the presentable objects from the client-side, the presentable objects being linked to indicate the relationship between the objects (referencing column 12, lines 50-56). In addition, it is apparent to the Examiner that the arrangement of the presentable objects, references, or both within the placeholders corresponds at least in part to the manner in which the presented objects and references are linked on the client-side of the system (noting FIG. 7, item 606).

Regarding Applicants' claim 2, the Examiner argues that Humpleman et al. describe the environment of claim 1, wherein the interactive presentation is an electronic interface (the Examiner citing column 23, lines 8-13).

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner asserts, Humpleman et al. teach the environment of claim 2, wherein the interface is selected from a group consisting of visual

displays, auditory displays, tactile displays, digital devices or agents, and combinations thereof (at column 2, lines 52-68). Concerning claim 4, the Examiner finds that Humpleman et al. disclose the environment of claim 1, wherein the interactive presentation is an output device (referencing column 2, lines 52-68).

As for claim 5, the Examiner submits that Humpleman et al. teach the environment of claim 1, wherein the interactive presentation is an input device (making reference to column 2, lines 52-68). Regarding claim 6, Humpleman et al. purportedly set forth the environment of claim 1, wherein the interface is automatically adaptable as an input or output device (noting column 8, lines 52-58).

Humpleman et al. also disclose, says the Examiner, the environment of claim 1, wherein the interactive presentation has at least one spatial dimension (citing FIG. 10, item 706), as set forth in Applicants' claim 7. As for claim 8, the Examiner finds that Humpleman et al. describe the environment set forth in claim 1, wherein the interactive presentation is a video display (referencing column 16, lines 12-19 and FIG. 10, item 706).

With regard to claim 9, the Examiner asserts that Humpleman et al. set forth the environment of claim 8, wherein the video display is a web page (citing column 5, lines 13-44). With reference to claim 10, the Examiner argues that Humpleman et al. teach the environment of claim 1, wherein the presentable objects are digital pictures or icons (making reference to FIG. 6, items 506 and 504). Concerning claim 11, the Examiner takes the position that Humpleman et al. disclose the environment of claim 1, wherein the means for selecting the presentable object or reference held therein is a selection box (citing FIG. 11, item 708). With regard to claim 12, Humpleman et al., the Examiner

asserts, teach the environment of claim 1, wherein the means for selecting the placeholder is a selection bar (referencing FIG. 11, item 708). As for Applicants' claim 13, the Examiner determines that Humpleman et al. describe the environment of claim 1, further comprising a database for storing the links between references or objects (at column 12, lines 51-56).

Regarding Applicants' claim 16, the Examiner indicates that Humpleman et al. teach the environment of claim 2, wherein the presentable environment is viewable over the global computer network (citing column 4, lines 31-48). As per claim 17, the Examiner argues that Humpleman et al. teach the environment set forth in claim 16, further comprising a web server and wherein the display is part of a web page on the web server (referencing column 5, lines 34-42).

The Examiner then indicates that Humpleman et al. teach the environment set forth in claim 8, wherein the video display is a web page (namely, column 4, lines 31-48), as provided by Applicants' claim 21. He takes the position that Humpleman et al. also set forth the environment of claim 21, wherein the presentable objects are digital pictures or icons (making reference to FIG. 5, items 506, 504), as set forth by Applicants' claim 22. The Examiner notes that claims 30 and 34-37 each depend from claim 22 and are of the same scope as claims 12 and 4-7, respectively.

As for claim 31, the Examiner takes the position that Humpleman et al. teach the environment set forth in claim 22, wherein the means for selecting the placeholder is a selection bar (citing FIG. 14, item 354). Finally, the Examiner states that claims 39 and 40 are rejected with the same rationale as claim 1.

Next, the Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

obvious and, therefore, unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Gagnon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,522,342. With regard to claim 18, the Examiner asserts that Humpleman et al. teach the environment according to claim 1. The Examiner acknowledges that Humpleman et al. fails to disclose the environment further comprising a means for selecting a last position of the interactive presentation. He then looks to Gagnon et al. for their purported teaching of an environment comprising a means for selecting a last position of the interactive presentation (citing column 19, lines 9-34). The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Gagnon et al.'s teaching with Humpleman et al.'s environment in order to display previously viewed programs or videos. Regarding claim 19, the Examiner reiterates that Humpleman et al. and Gagnon et al. teach the environment according to claim 18, and argues that Gagnon et al. further teach wherein the means for selecting the last interactive presentation position is a selection bar (referencing FIG. 14, item 354).

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 14, 15 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious and, therefore, unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Pollack et al. More particularly, the Examiner states, with reference to claim 14, that Humpleman et al. teach the environment of claim 1. He admits that Humpleman et al. omit to teach wherein the links between presentable objects are stored in a doubly-linked list. He then looks to Pollack et al. as allegedly using doubly-linked list to store data (making reference to column 10, lines 60-68 and column 11, lines 108). The Examiner determines that it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Pollack et al.'s teaching with Humpleman et al.'s environment to minimize the search time for the selected object. As for claim 15, the Examiner takes the position that Hum-

pleman et al. and Pollack et al. teach the environment according to claim 14. He then indicates that Pollack et al. discloses wherein each presentable object in the doubly-linked list has a pointer that refers to each of the presentable objects adjacent thereto (referencing column 10, lines 60-68 and column 11, lines 1-8).

Regarding claim 23, the Examiner argues that Humpleman et al. teach the environment according to claim 22, except for wherein the presentable objects are stored in a doubly-linked list. The Examiner then looks to Pollack et al. who, he says, describes using doubly-linked list to store data (at col. 10, lines 60-68 and column 11, lines 1-8). The Examiner finds that it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Pollack et al.'s teaching with the environment of Humpleman et al. in order to minimize search time for the selected object.

With reference to claim 24, the Examiner indicates that Humpleman et al. and Pollack et al. teach the environment according to claim 23, Pollack et al. purportedly teaching, in addition, wherein each presentable object in the doubly-linked list has a pointer that refers to each of the presentable objects adjacent thereto (again citing column 10, lines 60-68 and column 11, lines 1-8).

Concerning claim 25, the Examiner takes the position that Humpleman et al. and Pollack et al. teach the environment according to claim 24. Humpleman et al., the Examiner continues, further disclose wherein the presentable environment is viewable over the global computer network (referencing column 4, lines 31-48).

As for claim 26, the Examiner asserts that Humpleman et al. and Pollack et al. describe the environment according to claim 25 where Humpleman et al. further teaches comprising a web server and wherein the display is part of a web page on the web server

(citing column 5, lines 34-42).

Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and, therefore, unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Boreczky et al. The Examiner reiterates that Humpleman et al. describes the environment according to claim 1. He admits, however, that this reference fails to teach wherein the selecting means comprises an aural, oral, visual, electrical, mechanical, optical, or digital selector. He then looks to Boreczky et al. which, he argues, teaches an environment wherein the selecting means comprises an aural, oral, visual, electrical, mechanical, optical, or digital selector (referencing FIG. 1, items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 7 and 11). The Examiner then concludes that it would have been obvious to an artisan to include Boreczky et al.'s teaching with the environment of Humpleman et al. in order to provide the user with the ability to modify the video.

Next, the Examiner rejected claims 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and, therefore, unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Pollack et al. and further in view of Gagnon et al. Regarding claim 27, the Examiner finds that Humpleman et al. and Pollack et al. teach the environment according to claim 26, but fails to teach the environment further comprising a means for selecting a last position of the interactive presentation. The Examiner then looks to Gagnon et al. for their purported teaching of an environment comprising a means for selecting a last position of the interactive presentation (citing column 19, lines 9-34). The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to include Gagnon et al.'s teaching with the environment of Humpleman et al. and Pollack et al. in order to display previously viewed programs or videos. With respect to claim 28, the Examiner states that Humpleman et al., Gagnon et

al. and Pollack et al. describe the customizable environment of claim 27, Gagnon et al. purportedly further teaching wherein the means for selecting the last interactive presentation position is a selection bar (i.e., FIG. 14, item 354).

Thereafter, the Examiner rejected claims 29, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and, therefore, unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Gagnon et al. and further in view of Pollack et al. and Boreczky et al. Initially, the Examiner states that Humpleman et al., Gagnon et al. and Pollack et al. teach the customizable environment of claim 28. He then acknowledges that none of these references disclose wherein the selecting means comprises an aural, oral, visual, electrical, mechanical, optical, or digital selector. The Examiner asserts that Boreczky et al. teach an environment wherein the selecting means comprises an aural, oral, visual, electrical, mechanical, optical, or digital selector (citing FIG. 1, items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 7 and 11). He concludes that it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Boreczky et al.'s teaching with the environment of Humpleman et al., Gagnon et al. and Pollack et al. in order to provide the user with the ability to modify the video. The Examiner notes, in this connection, his belief that claims 32 and 33 are both of the same scope as claim 29.

Finally, the Examiner rejects claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and, therefore, unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Boreczky et al. and further in view of Pollack et al. In particular, the Examiner argues that Humpleman et al. discloses a customizable presentation environment of a service broker system for interactive monitoring and control of data from a client/server system for safety applications over a global computer network. The environment, the Examiner continues,

comprises an interactive presentation of data from a client-side of the system having a plurality of object placeholders each for holding a presentable object or a presentable reference to an object, the interactive presentation being a video display of a web page and the presentable objects being digital pictures or icons (citing column 5, lines 2-42). The Examiner also indicates that the reference describes each placeholder having a resource for selecting the presentable object or reference held herein and a resource for selecting the placeholder (referencing FIG. 7, items 604 and 602).

The Examiner finds, in addition, that Humpleman et al. includes a data store on the server side of the system for storing the presentable object from the client-side, wherein the arrangement of the presentable objects (making reference to column 2, lines 52-68), or both within the placeholders corresponds at least in part to the manner in which the presented objects and reference are linked on the client-side of the system, and the presentable environment is viewable over the global computer network (citing column 4, lines 31-48). Further, the reference purportedly discloses a web server wherein the display is part of a web page on the server (at column 5, lines 34-42).

The Examiner admits that Humpleman et al. omits to disclose the resource for selecting the presentable object or reference being a selection box and comprising an aural, oral, visual, electrical, mechanical, optical, or digital selector, and the resource for selecting the placeholder being a selection bar and comprising an aural, oral, visual, electrical, mechanical, optical, or digital selector. He then looks to Boreczky et al. for allegedly teaching an environment wherein the selecting means comprises an aural, oral, visual, electrical, mechanical, optical, or digital selector (FIG. 1, items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 7 and 11). The Examiner then finds that it would have been obvious to

include Boreczky et al.'s teachings with the environment of Humpleman et al. to provide the user with the ability to modify the video.

Moreover, the Examiner admits that both references fail to teach storing the data in a double linked list. He then looks to Pollack et al. as purportedly teaching using doubly-linked list to store data (citing column 10, lines 60-68 and column 11, lines 1-8). He concludes that it would have been obvious to includes Pollack et al.'s teaching with the environment of Humpleman et al. and Boreczky et al. in order to minimize the search time for the selected object.

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Pursuant to the Interview with Examiners Ke and Kincaid on November 5, 2003, Applicants amended independent claim 1 to more clearly delineate that the "customizable environment" is a - - customizable presentation environment - -. Claim 1 was also amended to clarify that such environment relates to interactive monitoring and control of a service broker system. Further, claim 1 was amended to more clearly delineate that (i) the data interactively presented to a user relates to "safety" related data, including but not limited to security data, from a client/server "safety" system, including but not limited to a client/server security system, over a global computer network, and that (ii) a customizable presentation environment of a service broker system effects interactive monitoring and control of that "safety" data.

Applicants also added three new independent claims, namely, claims 38, 39 and 40. Claim 38 combined the limitations of amended claim 1 with those of dependent claims 8, 21-29, 32 and 33. Claim 39 presented a service broker system including the customizable presentation environment of amended claim 1. And claim 40 proposed a

method for interactively monitoring and controlling a service broker system using a customizable presentation environment, as also provided in amended claim 1.

In the Office Action dated April 9, 2004, the Examiner cited a new reference, Humpleman et al., arguing that this reference anticipates each and every one of Applicants' claims 1-7, 10-13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 30, 31, 34-37, 39 and 40. The Examiner then rejected Applicants' claims for obviousness, in particular, combining Humpleman et al. with Gagnon et al., Pollack et al. and/or Boreczky et al.

Applicants, however, respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reading and application of the cited references. More specifically, Humpleman et al. relates to a browser based command and control network within a user's home for controlling devices also within the home. Humpleman et al. attempts NOT to provide interactive control of computers and devices remotely over the Internet, as provided by Applicants, but rather to address problems experienced with conventional household TV, VCR or CD remotes, e.g., a TV remote used to change TV channels from across the room. Indeed, as provided in column 2, lines 26-29 of Humpleman et al., "...there is a need for a mechanism that provides for controlling and commanding, from a single location within the user's home, home devices that are connected but remotely located throughout the user's home". Applicants respectfully disagree that such a system would, in any way, anticipate Applicants' invention, as claimed.

Moreover, nowhere in Humpleman et al., we respectfully submit, is there disclosure or suggestion of a customizable presentation environment, as set forth by Applicants, nor does Humpleman et al. teach or infer "a service broker system for interactive monitoring and control of data to and from computers and/or Internet enabled devices of

a client/server safety system over the Internet”, as claimed.

Similarly, Applicants respectfully disagree that any of the remaining cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, either disclose or suggest Applicants’ invention, as claimed. In particular, Gagnon et al. is directed to a multi-channel entertainment broadcast system that transmits a video/text/graphic-based program guide data stream that is used at viewer stations to generate a user interface that facilitates a user’s selection of various programs and services. Gagnon et al. specifically applies to a digital Direct-to-Home satellite television distribution system for broadcasting video programming, data services and multimedia data such as web pages archived on a PC. Pollack et al. concern an e-mail system that receives an incoming message and forwards or distributes the message to an appropriate set of users by information filtering and control. As for Boreczky et al., they disclose a media data stream browser that uses multi-modal analysis.

Although the Examiner asserts that such teachings are not only combinable with one another, but also applicable to Applicants’ invention, we respectfully disagree. To the contrary, Applicants respectfully submit that combination of Gagnon et al., Pollack et al. and/or Boreczky et al. with Humpleman et al. and/or with one another is tantamount to picking and choosing features from other, albeit unrelated, references to arrive at Applicants’ invention. See, e.g., the proposed combination of Gagnon et al.’s digital satellite television distribution system for web casting with Humpleman et al.’s home command and control network for eliminating the drawbacks of TV remotes.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicants respectfully note that claims 1, 16, 25 and 38-40 are amended to clarify application of the “customizable presentation environ-

ment” to a service broker system for interactive monitoring and control of data “to and from computers and/or Internet enabled devices” of a client/server safety system over the Internet.

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Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner’s rejections under §§ 102(e) and § 103(a) be withdrawn.

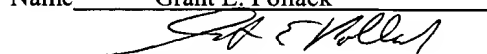
Applicants have made a good faith attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested. If there is any further point requiring attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicants' counsel at (212) 768-3800.


Please charge any additional fees that may be required to our firm Deposit Account No. 50-0518.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 12, 2004

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